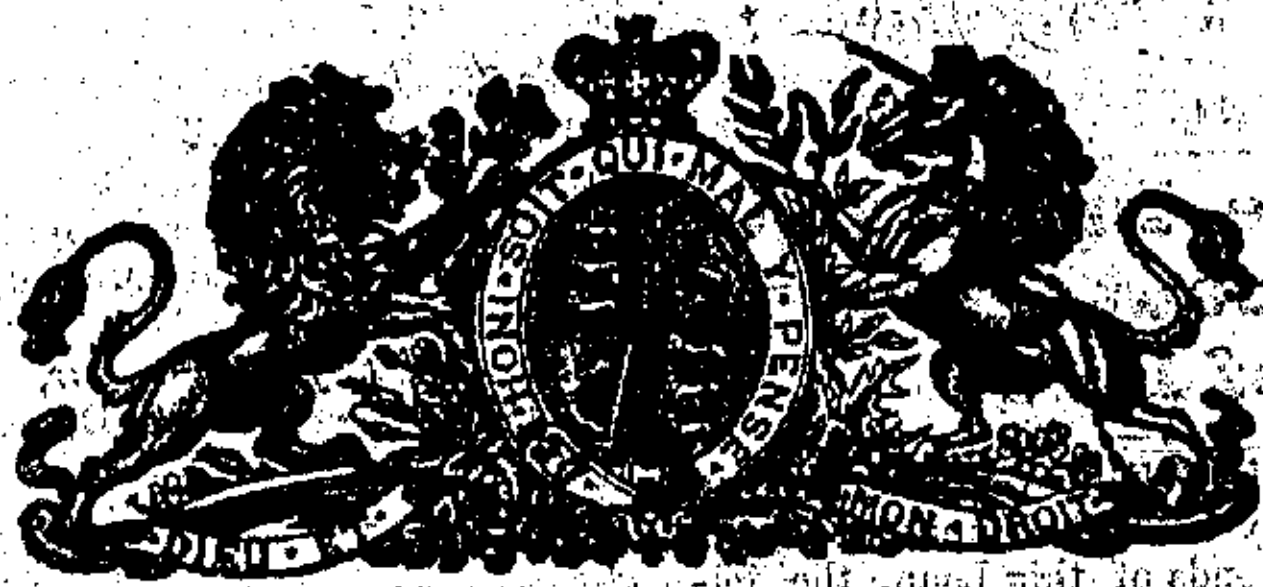


CHINA



MAIL.

Established February, 1845.

With which is incorporated The "Hongkong Evening Mail and Shipping List." Published every Evening.

VOL. XXXIII. No. 4520. 號六廿月二十年七十七百八千一英 HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1877.

日二十月一十年丑丁

PRICE, \$24 PER ANNUM.

AGENTS FOR THE CHINA MAIL.

LONDON:—F. ALGAR, 8, Clement's Lane, Lombard Street. GEORGE STREET, 30, Cornhill. GORDON & GOTT, Ludgate Circus, E. C. BATES, HENDY & CO., 4, Old Jewry, E. C. SAMUEL DRAGON & CO., 160 & 164, Leadenhall Street. PARIS AND EUROPE:—LEON DE ROENY, 19, Rue Monnaie, Paris. NEW YORK:—ANDREW WIND, 133, Nassau Street. AUSTRALIA, TASMANIA, AND NEW ZEALAND:—GORDON & GOTT, Melbourne and Sydney. SAN FRANCISCO and American Ports generally:—BLAIR & BLACK, San Francisco. SINGAPORE AND STRAITS:—SAYLE & CO., Square, Singapore. C. HEINZELN & CO., Manila. CHINA:—SAYLE, CAMPBELL & CO., Amoy, WILSON, NICHOLLS & CO., Foochow, HEDEN & CO., Shanghai, LANE, CRAWFORD & CO., and KKKY & WALKER, Yokohama, LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

Banks.

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL, 5,000,000 Dollars. RESERVE FUND, 650,000 Dollars.

COURT OF DIRECTORS. Chairman—H. HOPKINS, Esq. Deputy Chairman—F. D. BARSON, Esq. E. H. BELLING, Esq. W. H. FORBES, Esq. Hon. W. KESWICK, Esq. A. McIVER, Esq.

CHIEF MANAGER. Hongkong, THOMAS JACKSON, Esq. MANAGER. Shanghai, EWEN CAMERON, Esq. LONDON BANKERS.—London and County Bank.

HONGKONG.

INTEREST ALLOWED. ON Current Deposit Account at the rate of 1 per cent. per annum on the daily balance. For Fixed Deposits:— For 3 months, 2 per cent. per annum. " 6 " 4 per cent. " " 12 " 5 per cent. " "

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED. Credits granted on approved Securities, and every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted. Drafts, granted on London, and the chief Commercial places in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan. T. JACKSON, Chief Manager. Offices of the Corporation, No. 1, Queen's Road East. Hongkong, August 16, 1877.

Intimations.

NOTICE.

THE Attention of Shippers and others interested in trade to Peru is called to the following clauses of the Supreme Decree of the President of the Republic of Peru, dated Lima, 4th April, 1877.

Art. 1. Merchandise shipped to the ports of Peru must be accompanied by Invoices (in Spanish) certified to by the Peruvian Consul at the port of shipment in accordance with Art. 188 of the Consular Regulations. Art. 2. Merchandise when shipped via one or more foreign ports for a port in Peru must be accompanied by a special manifest (in Spanish) in addition to the Invoice certified to by the Peruvian Consul in accordance with Art. 197 of Consular Regulations.

Art. 3. Merchandise for which no certified Invoice is presented, as required by Articles 188 and 197 of the Consular Regulations, and Art. 1 of this decree, will be subject to a surcharge of 25 per cent. of the duty upon it as determined by the tariff. Merchandise entitled to enter free of duty will be taxed 25 per cent. on its total value. Art. 4. The Master of any vessel who enters a port of Peru without the documents of his vessel being duly certified to by the Consul for the Republic at the port from whence he cleared, in conformity with Articles 187 and 201 of the Consular Regulations, will be liable to a fine of from \$100 to \$1000 according to the importance of the case, and the judgment of the Commissioners of Customs, without prejudice to the spirit of Article 28 of the Code of Commerce.

H. SEYMOUR GEARY, Consul for Peru.

DEVOS'S BRILLIANT OIL.

RELIABLE, ECONOMICAL, SAFE!!

DESIRING to benefit by the World-wide reputation of our Oil, certain parties have attempted to imitate our packages. Such a lot have been instituted against the MAKERS AND PURCHASERS of these imitations. Buyers should be careful to see that the words "DEVOS'S BRILLIANT" are stencilled on the cases, and the words "DEVOS MFG CO. PATENTS" are stamped on the top of the can.

THE DEVOS MANUFACTURING CO., 50 Beaver and 127 Pearl Streets, NEW YORK, U.S.A.

Intimations.

NEW YEAR HOLIDAY.

THE Undermentioned BANKS will be Closed on TUESDAY, the 1st January, 1878.

For the "Oriental Bank Corporation," C. MORLAND KERR, Manager. For the "Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London and China," W. P. NICHOLSON, Actg. Manager. For the "Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China," R. I. HARPER, Manager. For the "Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation," T. JACKSON, Chief Manager. For the "National Bank of India, Ltd.," O. E. THOMSON, Actg. Manager. Hongkong, December 26, 1877. ja2

THE CHINESE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE.

THE Transfer BOOKS of this Company will be CLOSED from the 20th to the 31st Instant, both days inclusive. By Order of the Board of Directors, OLYPHANT & Co., General Agents. Hongkong, December 12, 1877. ja1

HONGKONG & CHINA GAS COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE Transfer BOOKS of this Company will be CLOSED from the 14th to the 27th Instant, both days inclusive. A. NEWTON, Manager. Hongkong, December 1, 1877. de28

UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

A THIRD and FINAL BONUS of Five per cent. upon Contributions for the year 1876, will be payable on MONDAY, the 31st Instant. Warrants may be had on application at the Office of the Society, on and after the 29th Instant. By Order of the Board, E. MOORE, Act. Secretary. Hongkong, December 21, 1877. ja1

G. FALCONER & Co.

WATCH AND CHRONOMETER MANUFACTURERS, AND JEWELLERS. NAUTICAL INSTRUMENTS, CHARTS AND BOOKS. 46, Queen's Road Central. Hongkong, August 20, 1877. fe20

NOTICE.

D. R. STOUT expects to Leave the Colony PERMANENTLY about the 20th of January, 1878. Hongkong, December 22, 1877.

DENTAL NOTICE.

D. R. ROGERS begs to say that he has RETURNED, and is now ready to receive Patients. Hongkong, November 22, 1877.

Auctions.

FURNITURE SALE.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co. are instructed by H. KINGSMILL, Esq., to sell by Public Auction, at his Residence, "As You Like It," Albany Hill Road, on

THURSDAY,

the 27th December, 1877, at Noon, THE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE (chiefly London-made), and other Effects. The Drawing-room Furniture, consists chiefly of Superior Carved and Polished Walnut Tables, Couch, and Lounging Chairs, also Cane and Wicker Chairs, Chintz Curtains and Fittings, a Brussels Carpet, a Collard and Collard Piano, and a Four-Burner Hanging Lamp, by Osler.

The Dining-room contains a well-seasoned, Hand-polished Mahogany table, with Spare Leaves; a full Set of Solid Mahogany Dinner Chairs, Covered with Morocco, a Mahogany Sideboard with Carved Back and Marble Top, Electroplated Ware, Glass Ware, Crockery, &c., &c.

The Bedrooms contain Brass and Iron Bedsteads, with Hair Mattress, Chintz Hangings, &c., a Complete Set of Polished Solid Birch Furniture, well-seasoned, comprising Wardrobes, Toilet Table, Marble-Topped Washstand and Service, Chests of Drawers, Birch-Framed Toilet Glasses and Stands, Chairs, Round Table, &c., &c.

A Choice Selection of Japanese Conifer Shrubs, Standard Rose Bushes, English and Japanese Lilies, English Flowering Plants, &c., &c., will also be Sold.

On view from 12 o'clock on WEDNESDAY, the 26th.

TERMS OF SALE.—Cash before delivery in Mexican Dollars weighed at 7.1.7. All Lots, with all faults and errors of description, at purchaser's risk on the fall of the hammer. Hongkong, December 17, 1877. de27

For Sale.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.,

INVITE ATTENTION TO THEIR DISPLAY OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS AND DELICACIES.

DRESSING CASES. WORK BOOKS. SOAP BOXES. PRESENTATION INKSTANDS. PIN TOILET SETS. STATUETTES. Handsomely Bound GIFT BOOKS. FRENCH DOLLS. PUZZLES.

THE NEWEST COSAQUE CRACKERS, Including ZOO SURPRISE CRACKERS. POP THE QUESTION. REGALLA COSAQUES.

FANCY BOXES OF CHOCOLATE. CHRISTMAS CAKES AND PUDDINGS. FRENCH PLUMS. DRAGÉES. CHRISTMAS BISCUITS. FIGS direct from SYRINA. FRENCH BUTTER.

MINCE MEAT. ELVAS PLUMS. CRYSTALLISED FRUITS. BLOOM MUSCATELS. FRENCH JAMS.

A FEW CASES OF THE CHOICEST SCOTCH WHISKY EVER IMPORTED. SACCONI'S PURE SHERRIES, at Low Prices. PURE PORT. LIQUEURS. CHOICE OLD RYE WHISKY. Hongkong, December 3, 1877.

Auctions.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

VALUABLE LAND AND HOUSEHOLD PROPERTY, &c.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co. have received instructions to sell by Public Auction, (unless previously disposed of by Private Sale), on MONDAY, the 31st December, 1877, at Noon, at their Sale Room, Fraya Central,—

The following PIECES or PARCELS of GROUND, with the Buildings erected thereon.

First.—All that Piece or Parcel of GROUND, situated in Victoria, Hongkong, and Registered in the Land Office as the remaining portion of INLAND LOT No. 41, abutting on the North side thereof on a Public Road, and Measuring thereon 163 feet, on the South side thereof on Section 4 of the aforesaid INLAND LOT No. 41 and Measuring thereon 75 feet and 55 feet, on the East side thereof on a Public Road, and Measuring thereon 88 feet, and on the West side thereof on a Close Registered in the Land Office as INLAND LOT No. 201, and Measuring thereon 38 feet, which said Piece or Parcel of Ground contains in the whole about 8,000 square feet, of which the Annual Crown Rent is \$73.01, together with the Messuages or Tenements standing thereon, at present leased by D. RUTUNDEE, Esq.

Second.—All that Piece or Parcel of GROUND, situated in the Poko-fu-lum District of Hongkong, and Registered in the Land Office as FARM LOT No. 26, abutting on the North side thereof on a Close Registered in the Land Office as Farm Lots Nos. 18 and 25, and Measuring thereon 1,200 feet, on the South side thereof on Government Ground, and Measuring thereon 600 feet, on the East side thereof on a Water Course, and Measuring thereon 1,400 feet, and on the West side thereof on the Sea at high Water Mark, and Measuring thereon 700 feet, which said Piece or Parcel of Ground contains in the whole 22½ Acres, of which the Annual Crown Rent is \$53.40.

And, All that Piece or Parcel of GROUND, situated in the Poko-fu-lum District of Hongkong, and Registered in the Land Office as FARM LOT No. 30, abutting on the South side thereof on a Close Registered in the Land Office as Farm Lot No. 29, on the East side thereof on the road to Aberdeen, and on the North and West sides thereof on a Water Course, which said Piece or Parcel of Ground contains in the whole 3½ Acres, of which the Annual Crown Rent is \$12; together with a quantity of Building Materials at present contained in and about the houses described as "Belmont" upon the aforesaid Lots.

TERMS OF SALE.—One-half of the purchase money to be paid on the fall of the hammer, and the balance on completion of the Deed or Deeds of Transfer, the expenses of which to be paid by the purchaser.

The Property to be at purchaser's risk on the fall of the hammer. For further Particulars, apply to LANE, CRAWFORD & Co. Hongkong, October 31, 1877. de30

NOTICE.

A MILLAR & Co., PLUMBERS, AND GAS FITTERS, Queen's Road East, HONGKONG.

NOTICE.

For further Particulars, apply to LANE, CRAWFORD & Co. Hongkong, October 31, 1877. de30

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NOTICE.

For further Particulars, apply to LANE, CRAWFORD & Co. Hongkong, October 31, 1877. de30

For Sale.

CHRISTMAS.

CHRISTMAS CAKES, made to order by HONGKONG & CHINA BAKERY CO. Special Agents, LANE, CRAWFORD & Co. Hongkong, December 17, 1877. de31

XMAS!!! XMAS!!! XMAS!!! THE HONGKONG STEAM BAKERY has for Sale Ready-made CHRISTMAS CAKES of all sizes, and PASTRY of every description. DORABJEE NOWROJEE, Ground Floor Hongkong Hotel. Hongkong, December 19, 1877. ja1

O O A L. BEST QUALITY CARDIFF STEAM COAL for Sale, ex Godown. Apply to BATTLES & Co. Hongkong, December 3, 1877.

FOR SALE.

SHAMEN CANTON. THE Desirable Property known as Lot No. 48, consisting of Commodious DWELLING HOUSE, OFFICES and SILK GODOWN. For particulars, apply to G. M. SMITH, Canton. October 15, 1877.

Entertainment.

HONGKONG CHORAL SOCIETY. THE FIRST CONCERT of the Season will take place on MONDAY, the 7th JANUARY, 1878, the Proceeds of which will be devoted to the FUND for Relieving the FAMINE in the NORTH of CHINA. Hongkong, December 18, 1877. ja7

Shipping.

Steamers.

MONTHLY LINE. THE AUSTRALASIAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY. For COOKTOWN and SYDNEY, taking Cargo and Passengers for all AUSTRALIAN and NEW ZEALAND Ports. The Company's Chartered Steamer "OCEAN," JOHN C. JACQUES, Commander, will load for the above Ports, and be despatched on THURSDAY, the 27th Inst., at Noon, instead of as previously advertised. For Freight or Passage, apply to RUSSELL & Co. Hongkong, December 24, 1877. de27

FOR COOKTOWN AND SYDNEY. The Steamship "NORMANBY," will be despatched as above on SATURDAY Next, the 29th Instant, at Noon. For Freight or Passage, apply to GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co. Hongkong, December 24, 1877. de28

FOR SINGAPORE, BRISBANE, SYDNEY & MELBOURNE. (Calling at the usual Coast Ports, and taking through Cargo and Passengers for New Zealand.) The Eastern and Australian Mail Steam Co's Steamer "BRISBANE," will have immediate despatch as above. For Freight or Passage, apply to GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co. Hongkong, December 24, 1877.

FOR SHANGHAI. The German Steamship "ALTONA," MULLER, Master, shortly expected, will have quick despatch as above. For Freight or Passage, apply to Wm. PUSTAU & Co., Agents. Hongkong, December 21, 1877.

NOTICE. COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES. PAQUEBOT POSTE FRANÇAIS. The Company's Steamship "TIBRE," Comdt. DE GIARD, will be despatched for YOKOHAMA shortly after the arrival of the next French Mail. H. DU POUY, Agent. Hongkong, December 21, 1877.

NOTICE. COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES. PAQUEBOT POSTE FRANÇAIS. The Company's Steamship "TIBRE," Comdt. LORRAIN, will be despatched for SHANGHAI shortly after her arrival from Europe. H. DU POUY, Agent. Hongkong, December 21, 1877.

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Shipping.

Steamers.

FOR YOKOHAMA. The Steamship "MALABAR," expected shortly from Singapore, will receive immediate despatch as above. For Freight or Passage, apply to JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Agents S.S. Malabar. Hongkong, December 21, 1877.

Sailing Vessels.

FOR DUNEDIN (N. Z.) The 41 German Barque "MARIE," Capt. BURMEISTER, will load here for the above Port, and have a quick despatch. For Freight or Passage, apply to ROZARIO & Co. Hongkong, November 14, 1877.

FOR NEW YORK. The 41 American Barque "MORRO CASTLE," JENETT, Master, having the greater portion of her Cargo engaged, will load at this Port as above and have quick despatch. For Freight, apply to OLYPHANT & Co. Hongkong, December 1, 1877. ja1

FOR MELBOURNE & SYDNEY. The 41 French Barque "ANGEL," Captain BARBEYRON, will take Freight at moderate rates, and have quick despatch. For Freight or Passage, apply to OARLOWITZ & Co., Agents. Hongkong, December 5, 1877.

FOR LONDON (DIRECT.) The 41 Brit. Clipper Bark "KATE GARNIE," JAMES WILSON, Master, having the greater part of her Cargo engaged, will have immediate despatch as above. For Freight, apply to MEYER & Co. Hongkong, November 28, 1877.

FOR HAMBURG. The 41 Clipper Barque "GOLDEN RUSSETT," RICHARDSON, Master, will have quick despatch as above. For Freight, apply to Wm. PUSTAU & Co., Agents. Hongkong, November 23, 1877.

FOR NEW YORK. The 41 American Barkentine "SAMOS," C. H. BRYANT, Master, will load here for the above Port, and have early despatch. For Freight, apply to RUSSELL & Co. Hongkong, December 4, 1877. ja4

FOR MELBOURNE & SYDNEY. The Brit. 3-m. Schooner "SEA BELLE," Captain ROSS, will load here for the above Ports, and will have quick despatch. For Freight or Passage, apply to BOP KEE & Co. Hongkong, November 27, 1877.

FOR HAMBURG AND LONDON. The 41 British Ship "ONELDA," S. CLYMA, Master, having 3/4ths of her Cargo engaged, will load here as above, and will be despatched on or about the 31st December. For Freight, apply to VOGEL, HAGEDORN & Co. Hongkong, November 27, 1877.

FOR NEW YORK. The 41 American Ship "COLORADO," INGRAHAM, Master, will load here for the above Port, and will have quick despatch. For Freight, apply to VOGEL, HAGEDORN & Co. Hongkong, November 3, 1877.

FOR HONOLULU. The 41 American Ship "CHARTER OAK," STAPLES, Master, will load here for the above Port, and will have quick despatch. For Freight or Passage, apply to VOGEL, HAGEDORN & Co. Hongkong, November 3, 1877.

FOR NEW YORK. The 41 British Ship "ISLES OF THE SOUTH," DARNLEY, Master, will load here for the above Port, and will have quick despatch. For Freight, apply to VOGEL, HAGEDORN & Co. Hongkong, October 10, 1877.

are still inclined to the opinion that if

THE

Established A.D. 1841.
香港大藥房
A. S. WATSON & Co.,
FAMILY & DISPENSING CHEMISTS,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRUGGISTS,
IMPORTERS

OF
DRUGGISTS' SUNDRIES, NURSERY REQUISITES, TOILET REQUISITES, ENGLISH, AMERICAN, AND FRENCH PATENT MEDICINES.
MANUFACTURERS
OF
Soda Water, Lemonade, Tonic Water, Gingerade, Potass Water, Sarsaparilla Water, and other Aerated Waters.
The Manufactory is under direct and continuous European Supervision.
Hongkong, June 1, 1876.

The publication of this issue commenced at 7.25 p.m.

THE CHINA MAIL.

THE recent visit of certain ministers of the Queensland Government to Cooktown has afforded the local "Anti-Chinese Committee" the opportunity, of which

they took advantage, for presenting a petition, addressed to the Governor in Council, praying that Asiatic aliens be excluded from all new gold and other mineral fields for five years subsequent to their opening, and that a bill be introduced into the Parliament

at an early date in order to authorize such a measure. The petition, we are told, bore 750 signatures. The Postmaster General, in receiving the petition, said it was satisfactory to perceive that recent legislation had proved effectual in stopping this kind of mail.

Colony. Subsequently a deputation, consisting of all the principal Chinese merchants in Cooktown, appear to have waited upon the ministers to complain of grievances in regard to the charge of £3 for a miner's right, and £10 for a

business license. From what can be gathered from the report of the proceedings it seems that the Chinese merchants did not complain of the later impost, but thought it inflicted a hardship upon their countrymen in a small way of business. They thought that this hardship

They thought that this fee should not be demanded from the more indigent of the business men, and that the miner's fee of £3 should be imposed only on those persons who had arrived subsequent to the passing of the Act. The chief difficulties in the way of

According to these apparently reasonable proposals are, no doubt, the delicate task of drawing a line between indigent and well-to-do business men, and the disinclination to interfere with existing legislation. Foreigners would unquestionably be less prepared to impose special

legislation and charges upon the Chinese
if a more liberal policy were pursued
towards outside nations in China. As
was pointed out to the deputation,
the privileges accorded to the Chinese
in Queensland were in reality far greater

China, where any race except Chinese were prohibited altogether from interfering in mining pursuits, all minerals being considered the property of the Crown in the first instance, and then of the people.

The telegraphic intelligence that Suleiman Pasha has garrisoned the Quadrilateral and is concentrating the rest of the Turkish forces at Adrianople indicates, if we are not mistaken, not

that the Turkish commander-in-chief is preparing for the defence of that town, or even of Constantinople, but for the defence of the Balkans. A glance at the map will show that Adrianople is the point on which nearly the whole of the main lines of communication from

the various Balkan passes converge. Here meet the lines of railway running from the Trajan pass on the west, and Vini Zara and Yamboli on the north, the chief roads from the Trajan pass, the Schipka pass, Hain Bognaz pass, and the Rila pass.

force under his command at Adrianople, and the various passes of the Balkans occupied and defended by Turkish troops, 'Uleiman Pasha' would be able to order strong reinforcements along any par-

ular route threatened by the Russians with the greatest promptness and despatch. The most practicable passage, we believe, also connected with Adrianople by wire. After garrisoning the fortresses of the Quadrilateral and placing a sufficient force in each pass to

For a temporary check to a Russian
divance, Suleiman Pasha should yet
have some forty or fifty thousand men
assembled at Adrianople ready to march
upon any particular pass assailed in force
by the Russians. The garrisons of the

troops in the Quadrilateral can at
not only require completing, and what
with the 100,000 men Suleiman is said
have recently operating under his
command in the neighbourhood of
Masgrad and Elena, the Schipka force,
and the small Turkish army at Orhanié.

say nothing of the army of 50,000
Rauf Pasha was telegraphed to be
garrisoning at Adrianople, and which will
consist of men sufficiently well drilled
for garrison duty, the Turks ought not
to lack troops for the defence of the Bal-
kan passes.

in spite of the warlike nature of the telegrams received from Home, we

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.
[SUPPLIED TO THE "CHINA MAIL."
(By Southern Route.)
LONDON, 22nd Dec., 1877.

THE WAR.

The proposals for mediation have failed in their object; the German Ambassador at Constantinople has recommended direct negotiations between Turkey and Russia. Servian troops are marching against Widdin. Snowy weather delays the Russian advance upon Erzeroum.

LONDON, Dec. 25th, 1877.

THE WAR.

Suleiman Pacha, having garrisoned the Quadrilateral, is concentrating the rest of the Turkish forces at Adrianople. It is generally believed that the Porte is fully resolved to continue the war to the last extremity.

The Emperor of Russia has gone to St. Petersburg, where he met with a great

thrustastic reception.

The Russians are investing Erzeroum.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

THE O. & C. S. *Gaelic* has gone to Aberdeen Docks.

THE Criminal Sessions of the Supreme Court will be resumed to-morrow at 10 a.m., and Jurors are requested to attend.

AMID the engrossing festivities peculiar to the season, our readers' attention is directed to the Sale of Furniture, &c., at the residence of H. Kingemill, Esq., to be held at noon to-morrow.—*Adv.*

THE Examination of three of the Baxter Vernacular Girls' Schools at Taipinggahan, Market Street, and Salinggun, was held to-day by F. Stewart, Esq., at the Baxter Memorial School, Gap Street. Of the first school 25 passed out of 32, and of the two latter united as one, 32 out of 34 presented

We learn from Manila that the \$60,000 prize in the lottery has this year gone to that city, and that, as the valuable document was cut up into small pieces, the sum stated was divided into many instalments, some of the lucky holders being persons in comparatively poor circumstances. It is also stated that the steamer *Mactan*, which went to the assistance of the disabled *Plintshire*, earned between \$5,000 and \$6,000 by her trip.

THE Manila *Comercio* of the 10th instant says:—"The ponton (a craft used for the navigation of the coast) *Oriente*, which arrived yesterday from Palnan (Mindoro), has procured the Captain and crew of the German barque *Johann Rudolph*, which was wrecked here on the 23rd Nov. last for Sydney, with a cargo of 2,580 piculs hemp, and was despatched by the firm of Messrs Kerr & Co. This vessel when 7 miles to the W. of Sablayan (Mindoro), on the 27th Nov., caught fire, and was completely wrecked. Fortunately, no vessel lay near.

The German barque *Ferdinand*, Captain Westergaard, from Cardiff, reports that in lat. 21.47 N., and long. 119.57 E., she sighted to windward a large Foochow junk which appeared to be disabled. The *Ferdinand* tasked ship, and beat up towards her; when it proved to be a diaphanous and suddenless; her mainmast was gone by the board and also several planks from the side of the vessel. The crew and passengers, consisting of thirty men, one woman and 2 children, were got on board the *Ferdinand*, which then came on to her destination. The junk was from Takow and bound to Amoy with a full cargo of sugar, and as she is caught in the track of vessels, she may be picked up by some passing steamer; and will prove a rich prize. Should she not be picked up by any steamer, she will probably

drift on the Macao field Bank or the Coast of Luzon.

Business was replaced by pleasure and relaxation during Christmas Day as completely as we have ever seen, there being an almost entire absence of any business compelling attention, such as arriving or departing steamers. The weather was mild and pleasant, and "picnicking" out of doors was in many cases a prelude to indoor festivities. But for the decorations of flowers and evergreens occasionally to be met with, the streets presented the appearance of Sunday. Services were held in the Cathedral, morning and forenoon; the Church was decorated, and special attention was given to the peculiar significance of the Christian and sacred character of the festival. We are glad to know that the poorer classes of the community were specially provided for, in many instances, with creature comforts by their richer brethren, but have heard generally remarked that, were some further information vouchsafed to the community, as to where the deserving poor are to be found, much more method and definiteness would be imparted to charitable outgoings than appear to exist at present. The manner in which native market-men and others fill to overflowing the larders of most foreign householders here at such seasons frequently produces a sense of oppression, and many who would gladly transfer such good things for their more needy neighbours' comfort are ignorant where such gifts would be acceptable. It is a comparatively small matter here in Hongkong, where the need is not so urgent as at home; but a big Christmas dinner for the honest poor of all nationalities might easily be given by means of the provision that is almost if not altogether wasted in this way.

A BANQUET was given in the Midland Grand Hotel, on the 19th October, by Scotchmen in London to Mr. A. C. Wylie, to fête him on his return home. According to the *London Scottish Journal* our friend appears to have had a most enthusiastic reception. In returning thanks for the toast of his health, "Mr. Wylie, in the most felicitous way, asked those present to accompany him while he gave a rough sketch of what was to be seen in a journey round the world, describing the Great Exhibition at Philadelphia, the Falls of Niagara during a thunder-storm, and the overland route to San Francisco. Very interesting were his remarks on Chinese labour in California, and the impressions produced upon him by the fact that 600 Chinese coolies were fellow-passengers in the long voyage from San Francisco to Yokohama. He was quite sure that the same number of Irishmen would have been more difficult to manage. Of the future of Japan he had the highest opinion. After visiting the Royal Arsenal and all the principal engineering establishments of the country, he came to the conclusion that, directed as the Japanese workmen are by English brains, they are capable of doing of walking alone in engineering matters, and of providing for themselves those weapons of war and engines of a more peaceful character which have hitherto mainly supplied by England. He spoke in high terms of the Engineering College in Tokyo, and of the great advantages being conferred upon the Japanese by the English engineers and professors engaged in conducting that establishment. Mr. Wylie also mentioned, in terms of the highest praise, the evidence he had witnessed of British enterprise in Shanghai and Hongkong, and gave a brief sketch of the Kiangnan Arsenal at Shanghai, where the Chinese have commenced the manufacture of Woolrich I. fans. He described a trip on the only railway in China, from Shanghai to Woonsoo, near the Yangtze River. Speaking of India and her resources, he wished that he could have had with him in Bombay a deputation of Lancashire operatives when he visited a cotton factory containing 60,000 spindles and 1,200 looms. He thought such a spectacle might open their eyes to the folly of strikes in pressing the masters for higher wages in the manufacture of goods that have to compete with those very mills, in a country that produces the raw material, and where labour is so cheap."

Police Intelligence.

(Before the Hon. C. May.)
Dec. 26, 1877.

ASSAULTING THE POLICE.

George Gunn, a seaman, belonging to B.M.S. *Audacious*, was charged with assaulting Sergeant Toomey (No. 80) in the execution of his duty. It appears that a number of constables were endeavouring to quell a disturbance at the Empire Tavern. There were a number of men-of-war's men who had been expelled from the tavern and wanted to force their way inside again between 40 and 400 seamen were collected together. The Sergeant and the other constables were attempting to pacify them, when the defendant struck the Sergeant in the month, knocking out two of his teeth. Defendant then ran away, and whilst looking back to see if he was pursued, he ran against the pillars of a verandah and out his head. He was then put in a chair and taken to the Police Station. Defendant said in defence, that he was trying to quell the disturbance, when some one struck him and he remembered no more. Mr. May sentenced him to 14 days' hard labour.

LARCENY.

Ip Fui-in, a hawker, was sent to 2 months' hard labour for stealing a bag of rice, the property of the Tai Yuen confectionery shop, Central Market.

A STEAM-BOAT THEFT.

Chuan Ahung, a coolie, was charged with stealing a pair of shoes from one of the passengers of the steamer *Douglas*, and sent to 6 months' hard labour as a rogue and vagabond.

DISORDERLY.

Henry Smith, private 58th Regt., and Mrs. Smith, servant to Lordi Francis, Murray

Barracks, were charged with creating a disturbance in the San Hop Sum Brothel No. 146 West Street, damaging two tea-cups valued at 30 cents, and assaulting one of the inmates. The first defendant was discharged, and the second fined \$1 and to pay \$1.50 amends.

Manila.

(Mercantile Review.)

December 1st, 1877.

Our trade for the last fortnight sums up as follows:—Imports from 17th to 30th November.—Hemp 28,632 pds., Indigo 473 jars, Cocoa-nut Oil 2,800 jars, Rice 2,100 cavs., Sugar 28,682 pds., Coffee 890 pds., Hides 278 pds., Paddy 5,668 cavs., Sapanwood 6,207 pds.

Exports from 18th to 27th November.—Hemp 4,660 pds., Gum-copal 196 pds., Coffee 364 pds., M. O. P. Shell 137 pds., Cigars 1,953 mls., Hides 284 pds., Rope 589 pds., Soap 118 cwt., Sapanwood 2,926 pds.

December 15th, 1877.

Our trade for the last fortnight sums up as follows:—Imports from 1st to 14th inst.—Hemp 21,027 pds., Cocoa-nut Oil 737 jars, Indigo 166 cwt., Rice 8,220 cavs., Sugar 2,602 pds., Hides 42 pds., Paddy 280 cavs., Sapanwood 6,129 pds.

Exports from 28th Nov. to 14th inst.—Hemp 15,420 pds., Sugar 63,763 pds., Beche-de-mer 74 pds., 74 pds., Coffee 1,538 boxes, Copper 502 pds., M. O. P. Shell 113 pds., Cigars 3,898 mls., Hides 1,148 pds., Rope 697 pds., Lumbang 300 pds., Sapanwood 8,663 pds., Leaf Tobacco 18,500 cwt.

Exchange.—On Hongkong (light) 8½ per cent. discount; Amoy (light) 3 per cent. discount.

6,300 quintals of leaf Tobacco were placed and sold at auction on the 13th inst. as follows:—309 quintals 1st Cagayan at \$71.19 per quintal (\$5.19 above upset price) to Petel & Co.; 400 quintals 4th Cagayan at \$11.52 per quintal (\$0.42 above upset price) to Petel & Co.; 2,000 quintals 4th Cagayan at \$11.51 per quintal (\$0.41 above upset price) to Petel & Co.; 6,000 quintals 4th Cagayan at \$11.52 per quintal (\$0.22 above upset price) to Bar and Co.

Arrivals.—Dec. 2, Paragua from Singapore, and Elizabeth Nicholson from Hongkong; 3, Emerald from Amoy and Hongkong; 6, Rosa Boetker and F. H. Drews from Hongkong; 6, Mannon from Hongkong; 10, Maetan from Hongkong; 11, Faith from Hongkong.

Departures.—Dec. 1, Maetan for Hongkong; 2, Salvador from Singapore; 7, Luzia for Liverpool; 7, Sophie for Liverpool; Emerald and Emma for Amoy and Hongkong; and Melusine for San Francisco; 11, Hopeful for San Francisco; 13, Victoria for Liverpool, via Singapore and Cadiz, and Growler for Hongkong.

Shipping in Harbour.—Chica, Conchita, Mindoro, Baracen, Manuel, Trinidad, Undine, S. Lorence, Elmstone, Critteron, Mary L. Stone, Horea, Flores de Maria, Stagbound, Paragua, Elizabeth Nicholson, Rosa Boetker, F. H. Drews, Mannon, and Faith.

Weekly, 4th of December, 1877.—Prices Current.—Sugar.—The week ending the 3rd inst. has commenced, and prices show a downward tendency, compared with those ruling during the last crop: the offers are \$3.62½ per picul for Superior, and from \$2.75 to \$2.87½ for Current.

Rice.—There is sufficient stock of various qualities without being placed. The 2nd White description from Saigon can find no purchasers. The Current Paganian is quoted at \$5 per cavan and the 2nd White at \$3.25 with little demand.—The Current Saigon is quoted at \$2.75 per cavan, and prices paid are \$1 to \$1.06 2 8 per picul.

The following paragraphs are translated from *El Comercio*:—Another fearful and destructive fire took place in the province of Tayabas, on the night of the 6th December, at about half-past 10 o'clock and terminated at 5 o'clock the next morning. The fire is said to have been originated in a house occupied by Chinese, and as a fresh North wind was blowing at the time, the fire soon spread in every direction. With the exception of the Church, Convent, Magistrate's and Gao, the rest of the district was destroyed. Tayabas is now reduced to a heap of ashes. There was not, however, a single loss of life to be recorded, but misery is evident in almost every family. The Convent has become the temporary abode of some of those who have lost everything they possessed. The number of houses destroyed is said to be about two thousand, and the loss of property is estimated at over two millions of dollars.

On the afternoon of the 6th, some sailors belonging to the British gunboat *Growler*, anchored in the port, caused a disturbance on shore, and the interference of the Police had to be applied for, resulting in two of them being taken into custody, one of whom had a slight laceration wound in the neck. It appears that some of the men were drinking at the "Oriental" for which they refused to pay up, and when the Police interfered they assaulted the Police and a struggle ensued, resulting in the wounding of the man.

MACAO.

Quarrels between the Portuguese officials stationed at Macao and the Chinese authorities of Canton are of such frequent occurrence that small attention is paid to them even by those who would seem to be most nearly concerned; and by observers at a distance they have been commonly looked upon as trivial outbreaks of temper to which no serious importance should ever be attached. Taken separately, in fact, they have not been of a character to reward close investigation, and although they have sometimes developed a bitter feeling on both sides, they have seldom excited apprehensions of actual hostilities or of international complications of any description. But to those who care to look beneath the surface, these repeated exchanges of defiance have a deeper meaning, and afford indications of an angry temper which waits only for a favourable opportunity to take the form of violent demonstrations. In view of what may possibly occur at any time, now that the strength of the European settlement at Macao is steadily declining and the administrative vigor of the Chinese provincial rulers in that neighborhood is increasing year by year, it may not be out of place to present a brief picture of the situation, and to show the true relations in which the opposing parties stand to one another. It is a singular fact that the real

position of the Portuguese in Macao is wholly misunderstood by the majority of foreigners in the East, and likewise, to some extent, by the inhabitants themselves. The general impression is that possession is held in accordance with mutual agreement, by specific treaty or by some definite agreement with the original owners of the territory, similar to that which endows Great Britain with the control of Hong Kong, but dating from a far earlier period. It will probably surprise most readers to learn that this is so far from being the true state of the case, that Portugal has absolutely no established claim to the place, and is now, as she has been from the beginning, an intruder without a particle of legal warrant to support her title to occupation or jurisdiction.

Three centuries and a half ago, the Chinese ruler of that district—who held sway under somewhat different and broader conditions than those more recently established for the government of provinces under the Tartar emperors—found it convenient to accept the assistance of certain troublesome freebooters who had his stronghold in Macao. In recognition of the service they rendered, they were allowed to establish "factories" of their own, and to reside upon the island, subject to Chinese jurisdiction. No treaty was signed, nor has any international compact since been concluded. On the contrary, from the year 1682 until 1849, the sum of five hundred taels was required and given annually for the privilege of residence. This payment was never disputed or complained of until the occurrence of events which inspired an ambitious Portuguese governor to attempt, after the example of representatives of stronger Western powers, the experiment of setting up an independent colonial government. When the English wrested Hong Kong from the unwilling hands of the Chinese, thecession was duly recognized and agreed to, although reluctantly, according to forms of law. But Governor Amaral did not trouble himself with details of this sort. He assumed to make Macao a Portuguese possession, the simple expression of his own will. As the Chinese gave no sanction to his action, and refused to exercise control, at least over their own subjects, in the usual way, this governor took the bold step of closing the native Custom House by force, and declaring that matters of trade should be regulated by Portuguese officials. From this beginning, a series of angry discussions ensued, which continued until the assassination of Amaral, in 1849. This act is always spoken of by foreigners as having been instigated by the Chinese authorities, who, on the other hand, strenuously deny the allegation. At any rate, whether concerned in it or not, they were looked upon as directly responsible, and, in retaliation, the Portuguese expelled the native civil officers, whose sway over the Chinese residents had always been exercised without dispute, and with them the native garrison. They stopped the annual payment of the five hundred taels at the same time. This was twenty-eight years ago. The Chinese have never since admitted, in any way, the right of Portugal to hold the island. They have not, at least until recently, felt themselves sufficiently strong to attempt to resume the practical authority which was never formally surrendered, but they have seized an opportunity of asserting their own claim and resisting that of the intruders. The occupation has not only been an affront to their pride, but has also been the cause of direct and serious injuries. The horrors of the coolie trade, the chief evil of which was Macao, were fostered and stimulated by Portuguese encouragement and cooperation, until the interference of Japan, in 1872, called such attention to the scandal that the business had to be abandoned. This traffic had constituted the chief prosperity of Macao, its suppression naturally occasioned great discontent, which was increased by the discovery of a growing intention on the part of China to take measures for the restoration of her old rule. For a considerable while this purpose was indicated only by restrictions upon native commerce, which were imposed outside the boundaries which Portugal had set up for herself. These were undoubtedly vexatious, and were calculated to reduce still farther the material prospects of the foreign settlers. The Portuguese representative in 1876, D'Alva, soon after his arrival, assumed the task of endeavoring to frighten the Chinese from their course. It was given out that he would exact an immediate treaty with the Peking Government, upon terms satisfactory to himself; failing to obtain which, he would summon a force sufficient to compel submission. This, it appears, was going a little too far for Chinese credulity. The idea that Portugal would send a body of troops—five thousand were spoken of—did not impress them as had been expected. They declined to be alarmed at this juncture. Respecting a treaty, it was understood that they were not averse to an arrangement which should seem equitable to them, but they would enter into no negotiations based upon the claim of Portugal to Macao. Such a treaty had once been prepared by Governor Gouveia, in 1862, but the Chinese refused to ratify it. They were then, much more likely to yield than fourteen years later, for in those days the pressure of the defeat by England and France weighed heavily upon them. The Portuguese took advantage, as they had done in 1842, of Chinese momentary humiliation by powerful nations to push forward their own pretensions. Nevertheless, they were resisted. And they were more strongly resisted eighteen months ago. D'Alva's announcements of his purposes appeared only to stimulate the development of the Chinese designs. Early in 1876 it was publicly declared that a Chinese customs station would be established upon the island of Paters, which is contiguous to Macao, and which the Portuguese assumed to look upon as their own. The notification was received with outcries of defiance, and the little community of Macao went through the ceremony of putting itself upon a war footing. Garrisons were installed in positions of defence, and the island in question was completely surrounded by a band of volunteer soldiers. So eager were the colonists for an array of the Chinese forces, they fell into the tempting mistake of firing upon an American pleasure yacht, the approach of which excited their suspicions. This oversight, however, was settled with no other consequences than an inquiry by United States officials and an amicable exchange of salutes between the *corvette Tonic* and the Portuguese forts. For a short time it appeared as if the Chinese would be deterred from further advances by this activity shown in preparing to oppose

them. There was undoubtedly a little wavering, but presently the Vice Roy of the Kwang provinces, apparently fortified by instructions from Peking, came resolutely to the front again with a proclamation, dated March 13th, 1876, in which the determination to institute a customs station and examination office was reasserted, and the claim of Portugal to Chinese soil was described as "so startling that we are obliged to dispute it, this being the territory of our country, of which we cannot, without authority, give away a single foot or even an inch to other people." The officers whose duty it would become to enforce this decree were instructed to report without delay. But the Chinese idea of "delay" is not precisely ours, and thus the contest stood for a considerable period. The Portuguese talked loudly of their determination to resist the threatened proceedings of the native Vice Roy, and that unusually zealous officer maintained his attitude with far more firmness than Chinese dignitaries are accustomed to exhibit. Foreigners generally were disposed to support the pretensions of the Portuguese; not indeed, from any conviction that right and justice were with them, but because the common interest required that all attempts of China to assert authority over territory which had ever been occupied by Western colonists should be opposed unconditionally and at every hazard. The Governor of Macao represented a theory or principle in support of which foreigners are always ready to combine, regardless of abstract questions of fairness and equity. It was amusing, at the height of the crisis, to note the easy complacency with which the English newspapers in China endorsed the Portuguese claim, a self-evident proposition requiring no demonstration, and especially to observe that they attributed the whole agitation to the view of the case, consisting in an objection to the violent seizure and occupation of a part of one's country by a set of adventurers who drive out the native rulers, pursue for years a barbarous traffic in the flesh and blood of those whom they have dispossessed and who regard all protests against their assumptions and all official refusals to recognize them as sufficiently answered by the mere reiteration of their resolve to keep a grip upon what they have obtained, as long as force of arms shall enable them to do so.

How the affair passed out of public consideration, and upon what terms it was set aside from official discussion, we have no means of knowing. Probably it dropped into a quiet oblivion in consequence of the indisposition of either side to pursue it to an extremity. But the animosities which it engendered did not die, and a new element was added to the traditional ill-feeling which the Chinese have always cherished. A semblance of comity was observed during the earlier months of this year, apparently because nothing occurred upon which to found a cause of grievance. Recently, however, fresh troubles have declared themselves. The present Governor, Senhor Engenheiro, has given offence by declining to treat with a delegate from the Canton Vice Roy upon a question relating to the arbitrary imprisonment of some Chinese boatmen belonging to the customs service. The subject in dispute does not appear to be very grave, and if nothing lay behind it, a settlement would be easily effected. But it seems plain that the Chinese are in a highly sensitive state, and are inclined to make the most of all their opportunities in this direction. It is declared that they propose to put a permanent stop to all traffic between the main land and Macao, and thus to deprive the colony of all hope of prosperity and even extinguish its last remaining *raison d'être*. No doubt it is in their power to do this, but the process must in any case be very gradual, and events are more than likely to occur which would frustrate such a methodical design. The simple and so effective plan of shutting out the Chinese from the island, if they really do not want the Portuguese there, nothing would be easier for them than to say so, boldly and firmly, once for all; and if the warning were not heeded, to expel the obnoxious colonists *à la armée*. It is pretty evident that they have the right to do so and it is absolutely certain that they have the power; but these are not the ways of Eastern action, and it is not likely that the tenure of Portugal will be terminated by any such decisive measure.—*Tokio Times*.

LONDON GOSSIP.

(Pioneer.)

Nov. 3rd 1877.

I was dining the other night in a man's party at Francatelli's. One of the men between whom I sat, speaking of Russia, mentioned that his sister (whose portrait, by the bye, appeared in one of the late numbers of the *Whitehall Review*) had a governess, an English lady, who had formerly lived for some years in St. Petersburg and elsewhere with a great Russian family. Her Russian pupils were now married—ones of them to Prince Varshinsky (as I caught the name), a great wall, and Aid-de-Camp to the Emperor. She still retains, however, a warm affection for her old governess, and writes to her in English as "Dearest Charlotte." This lady concludes one of her recent despatches in this way:—"Now, answer this letter quick, quick, and make yours a long one. Only don't put any politics in it, or it would probably never reach me." The man who told us this then exclaimed:—"Now fancy living in a country like that! Who could write a love letter under such circumstances? You will say, however, that a man must be a fool in any country to put his hand to a love-letter. Perhaps so."

The three Statutes have had their capital sentence commuted into penal servitude for life, while Alice Rhodes enjoys a free pardon. You might suppose that the newspaper lawyers and leeches who have won this victory would be satisfied with it. Not at all. You make an adequate allowance for the insatiable greediness of counsel. Nothing but a handsome pension to Patrick and Lewis Statton, in compensation for the suffering they have undergone, will meet these eager views of justice in the case. I look upon the Stattons as among the worst murderers of the century. If they had cut out Mrs. Lewis Statton's body after death (which would not surely have been so bad as torturing her when she was alive), not a word of extenuation would have been raised on their behalf. Oddly enough, there is now a strong feeling growing up (especially among the ladies) against Alice Rhodes.

She is the only one for whom nobody (at least no lady) has a word to say.

There are two "working men's" representatives (as they are called) in Parliament—Messrs Burt and Macdonald. Of these, the former is one of the most sensible, candid, and useful members of the House of Commons. The other may possibly be conscientious, but he is certainly a perculous and stupid demagogue. You can guess which is the more likely to be elected. Mr. Burt said this week:—"That he had never known a strike successful against a falling market, and that an unsuccessful strike was a terrible waste and calamity." Mr. Macdonald, who the other day proposed to reduce stocks and advance wages by the expedient of restricting production by working only three days a week, now changes it as a crime, for which Government is responsible before existing criminal tribunals, that there should be explosions in carrying naked lamps, or from whatever cause. Vorily popular selection catches in its net fishes of every kind. Look at Ireland again. We all know what Parnell and O'Donnell are like. Yet there Mr. Sullivan has just written a book, of which any patriot and philosopher might be proud, called *New Ireland*. *Mutatis mutandis*, it might have been written by De Tocqueville.

A month or so ago there was a notice in *Truth* (or the *World*—I forget which) of a new fashion of begging, or (should I say?) swindling. A well-dressed woman, if handsome so much the better, accosted you, and with a half-smile at the absurdity of her position in being actually without the money to pay for a hansom, asks you (like Jeremy Diddler) for the loan of "one-and-sixpence." I suppose there never was a time when so simple a pretext for extortion was not occasionally employed: it suggests itself. The wonder is, that the clever scoundrel should be so silly as to think the expedient suitable for indefinite repetition. For the number is legion just now of ladies who, to their amusement as well as perplexity, find that they have left their purses at home, and are reduced to the ridiculous necessity of asking you to pay their railway fares. But the idea seems to have flashed, as if by electricity, from woman to woman, and from rank to rank, through the whole community. The presumptive lady in silk and satin, the poor old woman in a battered bonnet, wants three halfpence to make up her omnibus fare. It is an epidemic of temporary (and purely accidental) penitence. At first men were the only victims; but, so great latterly has been the multitude of marauders, that men no longer suffice, and the fair vultures are driven to make carcasses of each other. I know hardly anybody, man or lady, who has not within these few weeks been made the subject of one or more of these off-hand and cavalier appeals. The philosophy of the imposture seems to me sound, and this is why I dwell upon it. It rests upon the assumption that a man, however much gentleman he may be, is always a little flattered by being recognised as one. The fair suppliant is to be supposed to argue in this way:—"This man is evidently a gentleman. There is the freemasonry of good society between us. He will not misunderstand me; and his delicacy may be trusted to appreciate the comical awkwardness of my situation." The calculation seems to me profound. I know a young fellow who confesses that his chivalry was so put on its mettle in an appeal of this kind, that whereas he was asked only for a shilling or so by the lady, he quite forced a sovereign upon her, which he had the greatest difficulty in inducing her to accept, but which she altogether forgot to return. Last week I had a small experience of this nature myself. It was in Welbeck Street, where, you know, joins Vere Street to Wigmore Street. A lady was standing with a parcel in her hand on the steps of Debenham and Freebody's, in apparent indecision. She was very well dressed, looking thoroughly like a lady, perhaps about thirty-five years of age, rather good-looking than not, but with nothing of mystery about her manner. As I approached she dropped one foot on the pavement from the step on which she was standing, and then withdrew it, and mounted a step higher, just as if she had intended to address me but could not muster the courage. Then, when I was quite close, she stepped altogether down and said:—"Can you tell me the nearest railway station to the underground?" I took off my hat and replied:—"You are about equally distant from the Baker Street and Portland Road stations: perhaps Baker Street is a little the nearer, but each is about half a mile off." I should then have moved on, but she stopped me by speaking hurriedly, with rather an engaging mixture of frankness and embarrassment:—"I ought to be ashamed of myself. I knew perfectly well where the Baker Street and Portland Road stations are. But I did not know what to say. The truth is I have lost my seal-ring containing my purse and—" "Really?" I interrupted with as much sympathy, and as little suspicion, as I could manage. Perhaps she caught the nuance of doubt in my accent, for she added "Oh, that wouldn't matter, for luckily there were only a few shillings in it; at least it would not matter if it had not contained the half of my return-ticket also. I live at Feltham. I cannot show you a card, for my card-case was in the bag too. I bought this" (showing the small parcel she was carrying) "at Debenham and Freebody's this morning, and came back here thinking I might have left my bag here; but it seems that I did not. It is very strange and bold of me to ask such a thing of a stranger, but if you happened to be going towards the Baker Street station, and would kindly pay my fare as far as Addison Road, I have no doubt the ticket-clerk there, who knows me, would trust me as regards the remainder of my fare to Feltham, and I should be so very much indebted to your kindness. At any rate I hope you will understand and forgive the liberty I have taken." By this time the naturalness of her manner and the well-bred tone of her voice had quite dispelled all my uncertainty. I said that I was only too glad to be of use, and asked what the fare was to Feltham. She replied:—"Addison Road will do. It is only sixpence for Addison Road." Could honestly itself be more honest? "No," I insisted:—"to Feltham?" "Oh to Feltham it is two shillings first class, but I don't in the least mind going third, and that is only fifteen pence." After fumbling in my pocket I said:—"Well, I am afraid you must submit to a half-crown, for I have not got a florin." She did not at once take possession of the coin, but held a corner of the ticket between the tips of two of her fingers while she said:—"I really do not know

how to thank you. But now you must kindly give me your card, or your address, where I may repay you. May I send it in postage-stamps? Or would you rather have a post-office order?" I replied, rather absently, or at any rate stupidly:—"Oh, don't trouble yourself about the matter at all. Give the half-crown to any poor old woman in your village," but she insisted (still holding gingerly no more than the edge of the coin):—"Oh I must beg you. Otherwise I really could not take the money." So I had to give her my card, and told her that when I gave my card, she put it in with much ostentation of care, into the depths of a mysterious pocket with the emphatic remark:—"I won't lose this at any rate." Nevertheless ten or eleven days have elapsed, and I have not received my postage-stamps. Still, as I remember the lady's manner, I have a difficulty in persuading myself that I was "done."

After all, so many accidents may have intervened. At any rate she deserved the miserable half-crown for her refined acting. I feel a good deal of personal obligation to Mr. Erasmus Wilson, to whom London owes the possession (when London gets it) of Cleopatra's Needle. I don't know whether this public-spirited gentleman is the eminent inventor of Dr. Erasmus Wilson's famous hair-wash. I hope he is, and that the sale of that esteemed remedy against baldness may increase ten-fold. At the same time I must say that, though Dr. Erasmus Wilson may be at the same time an inestimable benefactor to the bald places both of London and of Londoners' heads, he is a perfectly poisonous writer of English. He has written (rather prematurely, considering that our Cleopatra's Needle is still at Ferra) a little book on the subject of *Cleopatra's Needle*, which begins as follows:—"The granite obelisk called Cleopatra's Needle, which now forms a conspicuous ornament among the monuments of London, at one time stood, with a companion, in front of a temple in the Egyptian city of . . . Originally there were three pairs of obelisks at On; but of these only one single obelisk now remains, although the sole surviving relic of that ancient city. The existing obelisk is the oldest in the world, having been erected upwards of 3,000 years before the Christian era, and consequently nearly 5,000 years before the present time. The remaining four obelisks were set up by Thothmes III. and his family, more than 1,000 years before the birth of Christ, and therefore about 3,500 years from the present period. Two of these four were called Pharaoh's Needles, and now serve to decorate the obelisk. Constantine and Rome, while the remaining two were transferred to Alexandria, to become celebrated as Cleopatra's Needles." I have put in the italics in order to call your attention to the arithmetical puzzle involved; but the whole account seems to me a good instance of the "explanation" of a thing "till all men doubt it."

Quotations.

HONGKONG, December 26, 1877.

OPUM.—New Patna, cash, \$627½ credit.
" Old Patna, cash, None credit.
" New Benares, cash, 600 credit.
" Old Benares, cash, None credit.
" New Malwa, cash, 700 credit.
" Allowance Teela, ————
" Old Malwa, cash, 750 credit.
" Allowance Teela, ————

Exchange.

Bank, on demand, . . . 3/11
" 30 days' sight, . . . 3/11
" 6 months' sight, . . . 3/4
Credits, . . . 4/0
Documentary, 6 months' sight, . . . 4/0 a
Bombay, demand Rupees, . . . 22½
Calcutta, . . . 22½
Shanghai, demand, . . . 75
" 30 days, . . . 75
Bar Silver, 17, dwts. 2, . . . 10 ½
Sycee, . . . 1 p. 9 c. pm.
Gold Lion, . . . 26.20
English Sovereigns, . . . 5.06
Australian Sovereigns, . . . 5.06
Discount, . . . 8 a 10

Shares.

Hongkong Bank, 57 ½ prem.
Union Ins. Society of Canton, \$1,100
China Traders' Ins. Co., \$2,850
Chinese Insurance Co., \$262
Kantata Ins. Assoc., Tls. 665
North China Ins. Co., Tls. 860
H.K. Fire Ins. Co., \$385
China Fire Ins. Co., \$175
H.K. & W. Dock Co., 4 ½ dia.
H.K. & M. S. Boat Co., 16 ½ dia.
Shanghai Steam Navigation, Tls. 26
Hongkong Gas Co., \$75
Hongkong Hotel Co., \$68
Chinese Imperial Loan, \$104

Temperature.

(Taken at Messrs Falconer & Co.'s Premises Queen's Road.)

HONGKONG, December 26, 1877.
BAROMETER—9 A.M. . . . 30.420
Do. 1 P.M. . . . 30.340
Do. 4 P.M. . . . 30.350
THERMOMETER—9 A.M. . . . 67
Do. 1 P.M. . . . 69
Do. 4 P.M. . . . 69
Do. (Wet bulb) 9 A.M. . . . 80
Do. Do. 1 P.M. . . . 87
Do. Do. 4 P.M. . . . 68
Do. Maximum over night . . . 60
Do. Minimum over night . . . 64

Shipping Intelligence.

The following is corrected from the latest London and Colonial Papers.

VESSELS TO ARRIVE AT HONGKONG.

Oct. 2 Anna Bertha, Cuxhaven
3 Forest Belle, Cardiff
4 Empire, Newport
5 Elcano, Penarth
6 Kaiser, Penarth
7 Minerva (s.), London
8 Vega, Cardiff
10 Oscar, Hamburg
20 Benedicta, San Francisco
30 Lochore, London
Nov. 1 Elizabeth Ostle, Antwerp
2 Cadiz (s.), Liverpool
3 Johann Smith, London
4 Minna, London
5 Alons (s.), London
6 Malabar (s.), London
7 Elizabeth Seldale, Hamburg
8 Achilles (s.), Liverpool

